

September 2, 2004

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Chairman
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
1200 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-4026

Dear Secretary Chao:

On August 3, 2004, Nippon Electric Gas (NEG) Company announced its decision to close the U.S.-based manufacturing operations of one of its subsidiaries, Techneglas, Inc. As a result of this decision, manufacturing plants in Pennsylvania and Ohio have been shut down and 1,100 families have been left without work – 670 of them in my district alone.

As you may know, Techneglas was once North America's largest producer of television glass and at one time employed up to 2,000 workers in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Today, Techneglas filed for federal bankruptcy protection, raising doubts about the company's ability to fulfill many of its financial obligations to its displaced employees.

One of the issues of great concern to me is the retirement security of these hard-working Americans, many of whom have been with the company for decades. As such, and consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, I request a complete and comprehensive explanation of the effects that the Techneglas closure and bankruptcy will have on the pensions of their employees.

These individuals have worked diligently over many years to provide for themselves and for their families and rightfully rely on and deserve the financial security this hard work is supposed to bring. Please respond via fax to my Washington, DC office at 202-225-0764.

Sincerely,

Paul E. Kanjorski
Member of Congress

cc: Mr. Bradley D. Belt, Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.
Mr. Vince Snowbarger, Assistant Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.